

W A T C H E T      U R B A N      D I S T R I C T      C O U N C I L

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1962

I will begin with the vital statistics for 1962.

There were 43 births (48 last year); 23 boys and 20 girls with 2 stillbirths.

There were 35 deaths (32 last year), of which 10 were male and 25 female.

A breakdown of ages is as follows:-

<u>Male</u>	1 over 90
	3 over 80
	2 over 70
	1 over 60
	2 between 40 and 50
	1 between 20 and 30
<u>Female</u>	7 over 80
	8 over 70
	4 over 60
	3 over 50
	2 over 40
	1 over 30



It is interesting to note that of these only 9 deaths were below the age of 60 and only 14 below the age of 70.

The causes of death were as follows:-

Heart disease	- 7
Vascular lesions of nervous system	- 7
Coronary disease	- 6
Carcinoma of breast	- 3
Hyperplasia of prostate	- 2
Bronchitis and other ill-defined diseases	- 4
Hypertension with heart disease	- 1
Diabetes	- 1
Other malignant neoplasms	- 1
Other circulatory disease	- 1
Gastritis	- 1
Pneumonia	- 1

Here it is interesting to note that circulatory disorders accounted for 20 out of 35 deaths; heart disease for 14 deaths alone.

I am glad to record that in this year, cancer of the lung is conspicuously absent; indeed, cancer only accounted for 4 deaths all told.

We now come to Immunisations:-

Diphtheria (primary course).

Children born 1948-52	- 1
" " 1953-57	- 2
" " 1959	- 2
" " 1960	- 7
" " 1961	- 23
" " 1962	- 15
<u>Total</u>	<u>50</u>

### Booster Injections:-

Children born 1948-52	- 1
" " 1953-57	- 31
" " 1960	- 2
" " 1961	- 1
<u>Total</u>	<u>35</u>

### Tetanus

Children born 1948-52	- 1	Reinforcing dose	- 0
" " 1953-57	- 2	" "	- 17
" " 1959	- 2	" "	- 0
" " 1960	- 7	" "	- 2
" " 1961	- 23	" "	- 1
" " 1962	- 15	" "	- 0
<u>Totals</u>	<u>50</u>		<u>20</u>

### Polio Immunisation

	<u>Salk.</u>	<u>Oral</u>
Children born 1962	0	0
" " 1943-61	9	32
" " 1933-42	1	1
Under 40 years and priority groups	6	6
<u>Totals</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>39</u>

### Reinforcing doses:-

3rd injection	40
4th injection 5-12 years	2
Oral dose after 2 injections	48
Oral dose after 3 injections 5-12 years	34
<u>Total</u>	<u>124</u>

### Whooping cough immunisation:-

Children born 1948-52	- 0
" " 1953-57	- 2
" " 1958	- 0
" " 1959	- 1
" " 1960	- 3
" " 1961	- 23
" " 1962	- 15
<u>Total</u>	<u>44</u>

### Smallpox

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Revaccination</u>
Age groups under 1 year	27	0
At 1 year	7	0
" 5-14 years	116	49
" 2-4 years	17	4
" 15 plus	143	158
<u>Totals</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>211</u>

This was the year, you may remember, of the smallpox scare. These figures reflect that approximately 1/5th of the whole of Watchet's population were either vaccinated or revaccinated during the course of this year. I would hazard a guess that many more, perhaps between 100 and 200 were actually vaccinated, which were not recorded in the above figures for various technical reasons, making this a remarkable figure.

I must next report that in 1962 there were no infectious diseases notified at all. This, I think, must be an almost unique situation. Certainly it has not happened since 1954, prior to which I have no records.

Our water supply was once again exemplary, the last full year it was supplied by the Watchet Waterworks Company. In spite of being a private company, I would here like to pay a tribute to a much maligned enterprise. They have always given us excellent water at a very reasonable cost, a state of affairs that will, alas, not remain so for us for very long.

Ice cream samples, visiting ships and holiday makers all presented no difficulties.

Once again I would like to say thank you to our District Nurses and my Public Health Inspector for their valuable help. This acknowledgement is an annual occurrence, but I am sure you will appreciate that it is none the less sincere for all that.

Signed R. J. R. Lewis  
Medical Officer of Health  
Watchet Urban District Council.  
29th October, 1963

